

PARTA SOUNDINGS

MARCH 2018

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

March 5, 2017
11:30 A.M.
Barrack's Cater Inn
Lunch: \$12.00

GREETERS



INVOCATION



PLEDGE



LUNCHEON

Corn Beef
Cabbage
Assorted Salads
Assorted Desserts



PROGRAM

Speaker:

Kitty Yanko
Education Coordinator



Topic:

Helping People
Help Animals

MEETING

Abby Humbles
Chairperson

Sally Weber
Webmaster

Roger Hampton
Soundings Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PARTA Members!



This month I am excited to welcome Kitty Yanko, Education Coordinator for Peoria Humane Society. Kitty has been sharing her knowledge with area schools for many years. You will certainly enjoy her presentation.

Thank you again to all our volunteers. Without your help, PARTA would certainly not operate. We are fortunate to have an active local unit.



Special thank you to all who have filled in to help call members and count money in Nancy Wing's absence. We continue to pray for her recovery. We are all thinking of you, Nancy!!

Abby Humbles, PARTA President

UPCOMING MEETINGS – BRING A FRIEND

APRIL 2, 2018

IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Larry Newman

District Manager, AMBA

Roger Hampton, President, IRTA



MAY 7, 2017

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

A series of educational classes and trips presented by members or special guests that are geared to seniors.



WORLD OF WONDER (WOW)

WOW is a gifted children's program presented for one week – once in June and once in July.



JUNE 4, 2017

MORTON CIVIC CHORUS

Denise Adams, Director



Check website for updates – pa-rta.weebly.com/

LAUGH

Laughter is timeless,
imagination has no age,
dreams are forever.

IMAGINE
DREAM

SOUNDINGS

PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

President Abby Humbles welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked today's greeters, Sally Weber and Sharon Perez. Dave Barnwell gave the invocation and pledge.

Mike Olsen suggested the group might like to attend a Peoria Chiefs game, which would cost in the \$10 - \$12 range. He thought maybe a game on a Saturday night in July would be good. Since there was interest, Mike will make more plans.

After the luncheon, Ann Winget introduced Aimee L. Shinall, the Victim Service Coordinator from the Peoria County Sheriff's Office, who presented an interesting program on Personal Safety. She informed us of many scams in the area and how to avoid getting taken by them.



Abby opened the business meeting.

- The minutes were approved as in the Soundings.
 - Copies of the Treasurer's reports were on the tables. The report was filed for audit.
 - Programs – Ann Winget said to fill out an index card if you have not yet done so. There is a used battery collection on the back table. The March meeting's program is Kitty Yanko from Peoria Humane Society. Check out the book table and take anything you like.
 - Membership – The membership committee is still looking for help.
 - Reservations – Abby thanked the people who are taking the money for lunch.
 - Investment Committee – Jeff reported that \$2,000 was transferred from one fund to another.
 - Scholarship – Valda Shipp reported that the hat would be passed to collect for the Scholarship Fund starting at the March meeting.
 - Publicity – Laveine Birditt asked if anyone had seen PARTA information on the local TV stations or their web sites? Let her know if you do.
- The meeting was adjourned.



COMMITTEES

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Simpson, Recording Secretary

AT EVERY MEETING

Book Exchange Table: Bring books, calendars, magazines, and other paper goods to share with our members.

Used Battery Recycling Collection



FINAL REMINDER

IRTA Scholarship Application deadline Wednesday, March 7
Details and application online at: www.irtaonline.org

The Voice of Experience Can Be Sometimes Funny and Sometimes Thought Provoking

- Be true to your teeth, or they will be false to you!
- Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't!
- Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused!
- Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does!
- Age is a very high price to pay for maturity!
- Change is inevitable; except from vending machines!



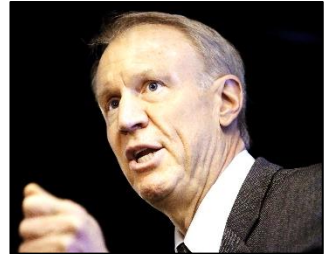
SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

The four legislative leaders officially met in the governor's office for the first leaders meeting since December 2016.

In the Governor's final budget address of his first term, he is again proposing balancing the budget on the backs of retirees, teachers, and state employees.

- Zero out any funding for the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program
- Lower the state's cost to TRS by shifting cost to local school districts
- Slash health insurance benefits for retired teachers and state employees
- Put in place a new pension plan

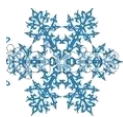


Whether the governor's pension proposal would pass constitutional muster is an open question, as a previous sweeping law to cut benefits was struck down by the Illinois Supreme Court. Any pension change would almost certainly face a legal challenge, delaying any cost savings. The governor does not count that money toward his proposed budget for next year, unlike in 2015, when he factored the savings into his spending plans.

- Boost funding for education by \$556 million – about \$350 million of that going toward the new funding formula that was enacted last year
- Eliminate some current programs for K-12: After School Programs, Advanced Placement, After School Matters, District Intervention Funding, Parent Mentoring, National Board-Certified Teachers, School Support Services (*Lowest Performing Schools*), Teach for America
- Remove health insurance from the list of items that are negotiated through collective bargaining with government employee unions
- Cut the General Assembly and judicial budgets

GOVERNOR'S PENSION PLAN VS ACTUAL CERTIFICATION BY TRS

System	FY19	TRS Certification FY19	Underfunded
TRS	\$4,466,178,109	\$4,209,584,000	\$256,594,109



While I relish our warm months,
winter forms our character and brings out our best. ~ Tom Allen
In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move! ~ Henry Rollin



DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT



2018 General Primary Election
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Information: peoriaelections.org/



I tried to explain to my 4-year-old grandson that it's perfectly normal to accidentally poop your pants, but he's still making fun of me.



I like having conversations with my grandkids. Grownups never ask me what my third favorite reptile is.

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

SOUNDINGS

PEORIA COUNTY GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION | TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2018

DEMOCRAT SAMPLE BALLOT
peoriaelections.org/DocumentCenter/View/206
REPUBLICAN SAMPLE BALLOT
peoriaelections.org/DocumentCenter/View/208
NONPARTISAN SAMPLE BALLOT
peoriaelections.org/DocumentCenter/View/207



Illinois' gubernatorial contest this year is on track to become the most expensive gubernatorial race in U.S. history by the time voters go to the general election polls in November.



TOTAL PARTA FINANCES	INVESTMENT BALANCE		\$40,799.15
	SAVINGS BALANCE		6,953.39
	CHECKING BALANCE		2,466.80
	WORKING CASH (CASH		100.00
	POST OFFICE BULK MAIL	spent 62.01	182.63
Jeff Vallosio Treasurer	POST OFFICE RETURNED	spent 4.13	57.39
GRAND TOTAL			\$50,599.36

DIRECTORY CHANGES - Please add to your PARTA Directory

Coker	Susan	1422 E Glen AVE	Peoria Heights	IL	61616		New member
Gordon	Gail	3901 N Lynnwood PL	Peoria	IL	61614-7130	682-5349	Member renewal
Johnson	Eric	6901 N Galena RD #322	Peoria	IL	61614	453-1029	New address & phone
Johnson	Janice	6901 N Galena RD #322	Peoria	IL	61614	472-5209	New address & phone
Lowery	Ron	13201 Allen RD	Dunlap	IL	61525	243-7200	New member
rjlowery50@gmail.com							
Merriman	Barbara	5200 N Knoxville #209N	Peoria	IL	61614		New address
Nelson	Mary	124 W Hillside CT	Dunlap	IL	61525	635-6335	New member
englit8@yahoo.com							
Rolett	Jeanine	3823 N Monroe AVE	Peoria Heights	IL	61616	685-1436	New member
rolett@sbcglobal.net							
VanScyoc	Richard	2711 Manor PKWY	Peoria	IL	61604-5436	676-3782	Member renewal
r.vanscyoc@comcast.net							

Oneita F. Volz (91)

Deceased: January 11, 2018



DATABASE KEPT BY JOHN RATHBUN, Membership Chair

Keep the dream alive. . .
Hit the SNOOZE button.



Hitting the snooze button is just starting your day off with a nap!

SOUNDINGS

ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR TRS CHECK ON FEBRUARY 1, 2018



TRS members saw a difference in the net amount of their monthly benefit checks dated February 1, 2018, compared to the checks received on January 1, 2018. Adjustments in the net amount were caused by one of the following three reasons, or by a combination of these factors:

AUTOMATIC ANNUITY INCREASE (AAI)

3% COMPOUNDED Your annual 3% compounded AAI, sometime referred to incorrectly as a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), for 2018 was reflected on your February 1, 2018 check. With some exceptions, recipients of monthly survivor benefits also saw a 3% increase. TRS pays your monthly benefit in arrears. The check you received dated January 1, 2018 was your payment for the month of December 2017. The check dated February 1, 2018 was your monthly annuity for January 2018. Under state law, the AAI increase is first effective on January 1 following either your first retirement anniversary or your 61st birthday, whichever is later, so not all retired TRS members saw an AAI increase in their February 1 check.

TRS sends a notification letter to all members before they receive their first AAI. This is the only time TRS will notify members about the annual AAI. Retirees may log into the Member Account Access area to view their monthly and annual earnings statements at <https://member.trsil.org/>

TRAIL INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Changes in the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) premiums some members pay for the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois' Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (TRAIL MAPD) health insurance coverage was reflected on the annuity check dated February 1, 2018.



FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING TABLES TOOK EFFECT

Newly revised federal income tax withholding tables were implemented and took effect on your annuity payment dated February 1, 2018. These latest tax withholding tables reflect the changes in federal income tax rates that became law in December of 2017. You may wish to contact a qualified tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service at (800) 829-1040 to ensure that your federal income tax withholding request for the 2018 tax year is adequate for your needs. The amount of money you withhold from your TRS annuity for federal income taxes plays a role every April in whether you owe the government money, or the government owes you.



Source: https://www.trsil.org/members/retired/Feb1_Adjustments



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION

Illinois has the most units of local government of any state, according to counts from the U.S. Census. A new law aims to make it easier for counties to dissolve smaller governing bodies, such as lighting or fire protection districts, through a voter referendum. State Senator Tom Cullerton sponsored the bill that expands a model started in DuPage County in 2014. Most of these districts levy a property tax, and the Villa Park Democrat says the law will lower real estate taxes while making local governments more efficient. "We can show people we're moving toward reducing and helping eliminate the heavy burden they're paying on their property," Cullerton said.

PENSION PAYMENT GUARANTEE IN ILLINOIS LAW

ISSUE: In recent years, the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago has said that pensions due to Illinois teachers and public employees are not guaranteed by the state; implying that if a state pension system, such as TRS, goes broke, retirees have no recourse to collect the money owed them. The Civic Committee cited the Illinois Pension Code – 40 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/22-403 – as saying that “any pension payable under any law herein before referred to shall not be construed to be a legal obligation or debt of the State...”

DISCUSSION: The pensions of all TRS members are guaranteed by the State of Illinois. In its argument, the Civic Committee does not quote the entire law when referencing the Illinois Pension Code and leaves out important language.

The entire clause reads: “...any pension payable under any law herein before referred to shall not be construed to be a legal obligation or debt of the State unless otherwise specifically provided in the law creating such fund.” In other words, the language in another state law creating a pension fund can override this section of the Illinois Pension Code.

FOR ILLINOIS TEACHERS: The section of the Pension Code cited by the Civic Committee is overridden by 40 ILCS 5/16-158(c), a part of the law that created TRS in 1939. This section specifically states: “Payment of the required State contributions and of all pensions, retirement annuities, death benefits, refunds, and other benefits granted under or assumed by this System, and all expenses in connection with the administration and operation thereof, are obligations of the State.” Source: <https://www.trsil.org/news-and-events/pension-issues/pension-protections-in-illinois-law>

Under state law, the payment of TRS Pensions is an obligation of the State of Illinois. In addition, Article XIII Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution protects “membership” in any state pension system as an “enforceable contractual relationship.”

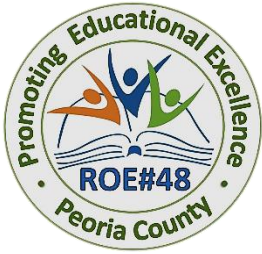
TWO DOILIES, MONEY, and a SHOE BOX

There once was a man and a woman who had been married for over 40 years. They talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other... except that the wife had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she cautioned her husband never to open it or ask her about it. For all these years he had never thought about the box. One day he came home and found her crocheting with the secret shoe box sitting beside her. The husband told his wife that after all these years he really would like to know what was in the shoe box. She sighed and agreed that maybe it was time he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two beautifully crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling over \$25,000. He asked her about the unusual contents.



"When we were married," she said, " my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily." The husband was so moved, he had to fight back tears. Only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with joy and happiness. "Sweetheart," he said... "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it all come from?" Oh," she said, " that's the money I made from selling the doilies."

SOUNDINGS



TEACHING LICENSE RENEWAL

Do you need to renew your teaching license this year? If so, you can renew online anytime between April 1st and June 30th. All renewals are done online through the ELIS licensure program located on ISBE's website. For step-by-step instructions on how to create an ELIS account and how to renew your license, please contact the ROE at 309.672.6906 and they can email you instructions. Or you can visit their website at: www.peoriaroe.org, click on LICENSURE on the left side, and then choose ELIS How To Create An Account.

LOOKING FOR RETIRED TEACHERS: BICYCLE SAFETY TOWN INSTRUCTOR

POSITION: Part-time

REQUIREMENTS:

- Teaching experience preferred, or
- Background in education or early childhood learning setting(s)
- Ability to work harmoniously with the public and Peoria Park District Personnel

DUTIES:

- Using a set curriculum, conduct and teach fun, safe and appropriate bicycle safety activities for children ages 4-8 years
- Meet and interact with parents and youth group leaders
- Supervise a program assistant if needed ➤ All other duties as assigned

OTHER:

- 10-15 hours per week ➤ Program runs April 1 through October 15 each year

Applications and resumes will continue to be reviewed until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration, applications should be forwarded in a timely manner to:

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT
Human Resources Coordinator

1125 W Lake AVE
Peoria, IL 61614



It was her last day before retiring and the kindergarten students wanted to give their teacher some gifts.

The first student was son of the local nursery owner, and he handed her a package. Without opening it, the teacher said, "It's flowers." "Wow," said the boy, "how did you know?" "Just guessing," said the teacher.



The next student was the daughter of the local bakery. Without opening the box, the teacher said, "It's cookies!" "Wow," said the little girl, "how did you know?" "Just guessing," said the teacher.



The third student was the son of the local winery. When he handed the box to the teacher, she noticed it was leaking a little. She put a drop of the liquid on her finger and tasted it and said, "It's wine." The little boy told her no. After several tastes and guesses, she finally says, "I give up." At that point the little boy said, "It's a PUPPY!"

Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.

SOUNDINGS

SPOTLIGHT ON IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

ROAD SCHOLAR

Adventures in Lifelong Learning

Road Scholar, the not-for-profit world leader in educational travel since 1975, offers 5,500 educational adventures in all 50 states and 150 countries.

IRTA members, who are first-time Road Scholar participants, are eligible for one of two Road Scholar gift certificates: either a \$200 gift certificate good toward any International adventure or a \$75 gift certificate good toward any North America adventure. When you sign up for our catalog, a gift certificate will be credited to your household for future use.

For a full list of IRTA member-only benefits and discount codes:

Login on to: www.irtaonline.org Click on: "Member Benefits"



NEVER FEAR – SPRING IS NEAR

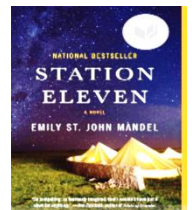
"Spring is the time of plans and projects." — Leo Tolstoy

The Spring Equinox 2018 in the Northern Hemisphere will be at 11:15 AM on Tuesday, March 20. It is one of only two points in the year when day and night are equal in length. So it's an excellent day to think about balance. As we hit the middle point between the depths of winter and the height of summer, take a moment to ask yourself, are you in balance right now?

Peoria Reads! Features Events Based on Station Eleven, 2018 Book Choice



Peoria Reads! will offer a variety of programs and discussions in March and April to enhance and expand the discussions around *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, this year's one-city, one-book choice. The book examines a world that has fallen to a pandemic and what happens 20 years after most of the world's population is wiped out. No ordinary disaster story, this one is seen through the eyes of a troupe of actors and musicians who save Shakespeare and classical music. Complete information about Peoria Reads!, the book, the events and more is available at www.peoriareads.org and updates are found on the Peoria Reads! Facebook page as well.



A preacher woke up one Sunday morning, looked outside and saw it was a beautiful day. He decided to skip church and go play golf. He called the junior pastor at his church and told him he was sick and couldn't give the sermon. The junior pastor told him not to worry, he would deliver the sermon. The pastor drove about 40 miles away from town to avoid being spotted. As he was setting up his first drive on the first hole, an angel leaned over to God and asked, "Are You going to let him get away with this?" God told the angel not to worry. Right as God said that, the preacher hit the drive of his life. The ball traveled all 450 feet to the green, bounced once, and rolled in the hole. The preacher was ecstatic. The angel asked God, "Why would You let him do that?" God said, "Because, who is he going to tell?"

